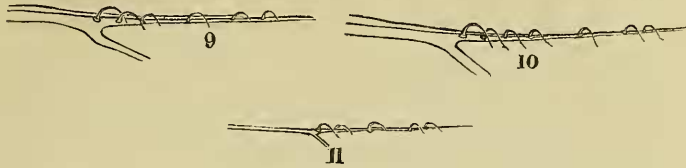


in the middle of the row are separated from the rest by a space double the size of that which is between the other hooks (figs. 9,



10, 11); and if this is found to be in all the species, it is a distinction easy to observe.

April 8, 1862.

Dr. J. E. Gray, V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary announced the acquisition by the Society for their Menagerie of a pair of living Paradise-birds (*Paradisæa papuana*). Mr. A. R. Wallace (the well-known traveller and naturalist, who had been engaged these last eight years in exploring the more little-known islands of the Indian Archipelago) had for some time held a commission to obtain living Birds of Paradise for the Society. But though Mr. Wallace had visited in person the islands inhabited by several species of this magnificent group of birds, he had failed in his efforts to preserve the birds alive when captured, and had given up all hopes of being successful in his object. A short time before Christmas 1861, when in the interior of Sumatra, Mr. Wallace had received information of two specimens of the Lesser Birds of Paradise (*Paradisæa papuana*) being alive in captivity at Singapore. Mr. Wallace immediately proceeded to that place, purchased the birds, which were then in the hands of a European merchant, and left by the following mail for England, arriving in safety in London with his valuable burden on the 1st of the month.

The two Paradise-birds had been lodged in the upper part of the Zoological Society's old museum, a room having been fitted up for their reception with a large cage of galvanized wire, 20 feet long by 11 in width. As they were both males, it had been found necessary to keep them apart, the sight of one another, or even of a Paradise-bird's plume waved near them in the air, producing in them great excitement. The cage had been, therefore, divided by a screen which excluded the light, and the two birds placed in the separate compartments. The remarkable side-plumes which ornament the males of the true *Paradisææ* when in full dress were as yet but partially developed in these specimens, but in a few weeks, if the birds continue to thrive, would probably attain their full dimensions.

Mr. Gould exhibited to the Meeting and described two new species of Humming-Birds, which he had recently received from Ecuador; a new *Fregilus* from the Himalayas, which had hitherto been regarded as identical with the European bird of that form; and a species of *Prion*, which appears to constitute an additional member of that peculiar genus of oceanic birds.

The Humming-Birds were named, respectively, *Heliothrix longirostris* and *Aphantochroa hyposticta*; the *Fregilus*, *F. himalayanus*; and the *Prion*, *P. magnirostris*; and were thus described:—

HELIOTHRIX LONGIROSTRIS, Gould.

Male: upper surface and wing-coverts brilliant green; wings dark purplish brown; four middle tail-feathers bluish black, the remainder pure white; lores, line under the eye, and ear-coverts velvety black, terminating in a small tuft of violet-blue feathers; below the black line a stripe or moustache of glittering green; chin, throat, and under surface snow-white; bill black; legs and feet fleshy brown.

Total length $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches; bill $1\frac{1}{6}$; wing $2\frac{7}{8}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Hab. Ecuador.

Remark.—I have been for years receiving from Ecuador examples of what I believed to be females of a new species of *Heliothrix*; but now in 1862 I have received an adult male, which convinces me that my opinion was correct, and I have therefore described it under the above appellation. In comparison with the other species of the genus, I find it to be most nearly allied to *H. auritus*, being similarly coloured to that bird; it is, however, of larger size, has a considerably longer bill, and in my specimen, which is doubtless adult, the crown is devoid of the glittering hue seen in *H. auritus*; at the same time, it is somewhat brighter than the back.

APHANTOCHROA HYPOSTICTA, Gould.

All the upper surface, wing-, and tail-coverts deep green; wings purplish brown; tail dull purplish green, deepening into blackish brown at the tip, the two outer feathers on each side very slightly fringed with white at the tip; feathers of the throat, breast, and centre of the abdomen dull white at the base, with a spot of dull green near the tip, giving those parts a spotted appearance; remainder of the under surface dull green; under tail-coverts dull green at the base, deepening into black near the end, and fringed with grey; tarsi and thighs rather thickly clothed with white feathers; bill black, except at the base of the under mandible, which appears to have been flesh-colour.

Total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill $1\frac{3}{6}$; wing $2\frac{3}{4}$; tail $1\frac{7}{8}$.

Hab. Ecuador.

Remark.—I have several specimens of this bird all similarly coloured; and I believe the specimen from which the above description was taken to be fully adult. It differs from *A. cirrhochloris* in its spotted breast, in its shorter tail, and its rather more lengthened and

curved bill. I received the examples I possess from Quito, but I believe they were collected near the waters of the Upper Napo.

FREGILUS HIMALAYANUS, Gould.

Plumage of the head and the whole of the body, both above and beneath, deep glossy black; wings and tail black, glossed with purple and green; bill and feet coral-red; nails black.

Hab. The Himalayas.

Remark.—This fine Chough differs so greatly in point of size from the species killed in this country that I have no hesitation in describing it as distinct; and that ornithologists may more clearly perceive the great difference alluded to, I annex an accurate admeasurement of male examples from India and Europe.

<i>Fregilus himalayanus.</i>		<i>Fregilus graculus.</i>	
	Inches.		Inches.
Total length	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Total length	14
Bill	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Bill	1 $\frac{7}{8}$
Wing	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	Wing	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tail	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	Tail	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tarsi	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tarsi	1 $\frac{3}{4}$

I may add that specimens from Italy and from Wales are precisely alike in all their admeasurements.

PRION MAGNIROSTRIS, Gould.

Head, all the upper surface and sides of the chest blue-grey; lesser wing-coverts and the edge of the shoulder brown; the remainder of the wing blue-grey, deepening into slate-grey at the tips of the inner primaries; the outer primaries slaty black, fading into white on the inner edge; scapularies deepening into slate-grey near the end, and tipped with pale grey; tail very light grey, the centre feathers tipped with blackish-brown; chin, throat, centre of the breast, abdomen, and under surface of the wing creamy white; a faint wash of blue on the lower part of the flanks and the under tail-coverts; bill blue, deepening into black on the sides of the nostrils, at the tip and along the side of the lower mandible; irides brown, legs beautiful light blue.

Total length 11 inches; bill, base to tip 2, breadth at base $\frac{15}{16}$; wing 8; tail $4\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Hab. Unknown.

Remark.—As the name I have assigned to it implies, this species differs from every other member of the genus in the extraordinary size of its bill. In form and colouring it is precisely similar to the other *Priones*, all of which are remarkably alike in these respects—not so, however, in their bills, which consequently present the best specific characters.

The following papers were read:—